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401 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

BILL GERTZ
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

3600 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.E. ◆ SUITE 350 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 ◆ (202) 636-4840

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NEWS RELEASE

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Article Reveals Probe of Mondale Adviser Was Obstructed

A Senate Intelligence Committee investigation of a Carter administration national security official—David Aaron—was obstructed by political collaboration between the Committee's staff and the Carter White House National Security Council in 1980, according to a copyrighted story in today's New York Tribune. Aaron is currently a top foreign policy adviser to Democratic presidential nominee Walter Mondale.

The article reports that the probe of Aaron cleared the then-deputy national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter. But intelligence sources told the <u>Tribune</u> two factors rendered the investigation incomplete. The probe was initiated after press reports linked Aaron to a leak of classified intelligence data which allegedly lead to the loss of a highly-placed CIA spy in the Soviet Union.

Today's story details an exchange of letters between members of Congress and Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Barry Goldwater, R.-Ariz., who states that no "direct" or "credible" evidence was found which links Aaron to the compromise of the CIA agent code-named Trigon.

But a letter from Congressman Dan Crane, R.-II1., to Goldwater that was obtained by the <u>Tribune</u> states that the former staff director of the Committee kept in close contact with Aaron during the 1980 investigation and thus negated the "objectivity" of the probe.

In addition to alleged political interference in the Aaron investigation, the <u>Tribune</u> article states that the Committee did not fully investigate Aaron due to reluctance of Committee members to reveal sensitive intelligence data. According to the article, an ultra-secret document held by the National Security Agency, which implicates Aaron, was not revealed during the inquiry.

For more details, see today's <u>New York Tribune</u> or contact Robert Morton, Editor-in-Chief, at (212)532-8300.

Contact: Robert Morton (212)532-8300

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